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A Costly Postponement.

The country was surprised and disappointed at the President's failure to send in his message last Wednesday.

Information based upon the very highest authority explains that the postponement was due solely to a despatch from Gen. Lee saying that the Americans in Cuba would be in danger if the message should be sent to Congress before they could get away.

This is a reason for delay which must be accepted as conclusive, if true; but as the President ought to have known the nature of his message as soon as he read the report of the Board of Inquiry, it seems strange that our citizens in Cuba were not quietly notified to come home some days ago.

The universal confidence in Gen. Lee disposes the public to believe him when he says that a massacre of Americans would have followed the publication of the President's message, and of course nobody is willing to take the risk of causing such a massacre, but this does not diminish in the slightest degree the popular wrath against those who have brought the country into this predicament. Mr. McKinley knew the danger of Americans in Cuba two weeks ago as well as he knows it now. He could have made arrangements for their removal in ample time to prevent any interference with the military plans of the Government. He has deliberately chosen to delay the arrangements for their withdrawal in order that he might have one last chance of obstructing the action of the United States in behalf of Cuban freedom. The order for the recall of the American consuls was drawn up a week ago last Thursday, a week later than it should have been, and then was held by the President, against the remonstrance of the State Department, until Monday. Thus Mr. McKinley created the very difficulties of which he now avails himself as an excuse for breaking his solemn pledge.

The damning fact that the news of the President's intended action was known in Wall street two hours before it came through the regular channels from Washington throws a lurid light on the character of the proceeding. The underground connection between the Capitol and the Stock Exchange is bad enough when a tariff bill is under consideration, and speculative statesmanship is concerned with nothing more important than the question of differential on sugar. But when the issues involved are our most momentous international relations, the liberty or bondage of a whole people entitled to our protection, the lives of hundreds of thousands of starving women and children, and retribution for the cowardly assassination of 266 American sailors with the destruction of their ship, the shameful partnership between the Administration and the stock jobbers becomes a scandal whose infamy is unmatched in the whole range of American history. Compared with it the Credit Mobilier, Belknap, Robeson and Whiskey Ring inequities of Grant's second Administration become harmless indiscretions.

The withholding of the message, after the day and hour had been fixed for sending it in, is a part of the mystery in the management of the whole affair by the Administration which a trustful people still hope will soon give way to a publicity more in harmony with a government by the people.

No More Syndicate Dickers.

Secretary Gage says that if war is declared there may be an issue of bonds within thirty days.

One thing ought to be settled at once. If bonds are to be issued they should not be sold to any syndicate of bankers and money lenders, no matter how enticingly such syndicate shall proffer "ready cash."

They should be sold to the people. And if offered in denominations of \$50 and multiples thereof there is not the slightest doubt that the people will eagerly buy them, without seeking, as the syndicates always do, to rob the Government by making a price greatly below the actual worth of the bonds.

But a better price is the smallest of the benefits that will be realized from a popular instead of a syndicate sale. It is a grave misfortune that our national obligations are almost exclusively held by banks and bankers at home and abroad, and not by the people.

It is a source of untold strength to France that her peasants and her workmen are so largely the holders of her bonds. They have a "stake" in the national welfare. France is their France. In England stability is strongly warranted by the fact that a great part of the money of the estates and of the people is invested in consols. The English Government is the English people's Government. Its credit is their credit. Its honor is their honor.

It is because our bonds are mainly held by bankers and trust companies that there is so great a hostility to "bondholders" in the South and West. When the farmers and the toilers become themselves bondholders a dangerous influence in our politics will have passed away.

There should be no repetition of the blunder and crime of Cleveland and Carlisle. There should be no more secret dickers with syndicates. If we must issue bonds let them be offered to the people in suitable denominations and placed on sale at every national bank and every considerable Post Office in the land. If bankers want bonds let them buy as the people buy.

So shall we emphasize the truth of Lincoln's words that ours is "a government of the people, by the people and for the people."

United for Free Cuba.

Representative Bailey in no wise overstated the patriotic self-sacrifice of the Democrats at Washington when he said to an interviewer, "If the Republican party declares war they will undoubtedly beat us—the Democrats—in the next campaign. * * * When the matter of the \$50,000,000 war appropriation came up the Democrats in the House realized the truth of the statement I have just made. They deliberately sank party feeling and voted for it."

Democrats in and out of Congress may be relied upon to give the heartiest support to the Administration in any measures of aggressive Americanism it may choose to take, regardless of the effect on their party's fortunes. Indeed, for a year past the Democrats have persistently urged more drastic action in Cuba's behalf, and only the stubborn opposition of Speaker Reed prevented the recognition of Cuban belligerency long ago by joint resolution.

There will be no party dissensions if issue shall be joined with Spain, nor will there be any sectional differences. Gold standard New England is at one with the free silver West on the Cuban question. As for the South, her people would probably welcome the opportunity to show the ludicrous idiocy of the Spanish Ambassador at Vienna when he promised some "revolutions in the American Southern States" as a set-off to possible insurrections in the Philippines. The South is ready to press the cause of Free Cuba to the furthest limit.

LONDON despatches report that expert mine makers there declare that they have for years sold mines to Spain, some of which were planted in Havana Harbor; that these could not explode by accident or otherwise than by the use of three separate keys in the hands of three separate officers. This news seems important. It may help to determine how far the blowing up of the Maine by a mine is properly to be regarded as "an accident."

How quick France would stop meddling in our affairs just now if it were intimated that such a course would keep at home the Americans upon whose gold France hopes to fatten in 1900!

Wars and Declarations.

Among all the varieties of hysteria, there is one that could be relieved by a little study of history. It is that which implies that for us to send a few ships where they would be of service in case of the approach of a foreign torpedo flotilla would be "essentially dishonest," because it would be "to commit an act of war before war is declared"—a thing that would be "infamous as well as unconstitutional," "an act of piracy," "in violation of our own law and of a law of nations that has been in force and universally accepted since the earliest days of the Roman Republic."

Not only the history of the United States, including the "infamous" capture of French vessels by the pirates Decatur and Truxton without a declaration of war, the invasion of a Spanish province in time of peace by the brigand Jackson, and the fighting on the Rio Grande in 1845 by the highwayman Taylor, but the annals of other countries are studded with similar incidents. Nelson did some rather warm work at Copenhagen in 1801 when Denmark was quite as much at peace with England as Spain is with us now, and the seizure of the Danish fleet at the same place in 1807 in the absence of a declaration of war is a notable event in British history. No war had been declared when the British, French and Russian fleets destroyed the bulk of the Turkish navy at Navarino; nor to show that British policy has been unchanged in recent years, was there any declaration of war against Nicaragua when the British forces occupied Corinto.

In the latest of the great wars of the present century, that between China and Japan, hostilities began by the sinking of the Chinese troop ship Kow Shing, with 1,100 soldiers, on July 25, 1894, and the capture of a despatch boat. The declaration of war followed on August 1.

The truth is that modern publicists are coming more and more to regard declarations of war as unessential formalities, which, if they are to be resorted to at all, will follow rather than precede hostilities. It is the general belief among European statesmen and strategists that the first news the world will have of the great war for which they are all preparing will be the announcement of a crushing blow delivered somewhere without warning—that is the modern way of beginning a war, and it has been a very common way throughout all history.

No Allies for Spain.

Nothing could be more absurd or show greater ignorance of real conditions of the European situation than the repeated suggestions of European aid for Spain in a war with us.

From what source is aid to be expected?

Great Britain and Russia are probably the only two countries in Europe that would not be in danger of a revolution at home if they should undertake to render any quixotic aid to Spain against the United States. There is every reason to believe that both of these great powers, as well as the Republic of France, are animated by the most friendly sentiments toward us.

It would be only natural in the Emperor of Austria to feel a certain sympathy for his kinswoman the Queen Regent Maria Christina, who was an Austrian Archduchess, but of all the Governments of Europe that of Austria-Hungary, with its ten different kingdoms and principalities and its twenty rival races, is in most imminent danger of an internal explosion. Even if the Emperor Francis Joseph were not walking a tightrope over the discordant elements of his own dominions he could be of no use to Spain, for he has no navy and he is held by his Dreihund engagements.

Moreover, public sentiment is now the potent factor in government in Europe, as in this country. In no country will public sentiment let the Government be used to perpetuate Spanish impotence and cruelty in Cuba against the resolute intervention of the United States. If Spain compels us to go to war it will have to take its drubbing, with no one to share its sufferings. And as "consequences are unipitying" it will not only lose Cuba and Porto Rico, but be compelled to pay a heavy indemnity to the United States for the cost of the war.

The Shawneetown Calamity.

The disaster at Shawneetown is more appalling than a battle. In battle the victims are fighting men, men who have deliberately dared death and are prepared to meet it. At Shawneetown the victims were helpless men, women and children, living quietly in their homes and suddenly overwhelmed by a force they could not fight.

Waters piled up twenty feet or more above the town suddenly broke through their frail barriers and rolled in a resistless flood upon the inhabitants. Houses were swept instantly away and broken into bits. Helpless human beings by scores and hundreds struggled for brief minutes in the icy waters and then went down.

The figures tell the tale. Three hundred bodies have been recovered. Three hundred more have floated away in the turbulent tide.

The loss of life is about the same as that at the battle of Bull Run, and the lives were largely those of women and young children, mothers and their babes in arms.

It is a truly terrible calamity, and unhappily it is one that may be repeated any hour while the flood lasts, at any point on that great, uncontrollable river from Shawneetown to Cairo. Suppose the Cairo levees should break in the same way! A trail alluvial point of land on which 12,000 people dwell would be utterly and instantly swept away. It would be another Johnstown, with added horrors.

The story of Shawneetown is a footnote to the history of the middle West. It has often been accounted the second oldest town in Illinois. It was, in fact, for a long time the second in importance. It was for a quarter of a century the rival of Kaskaskia, once accounted the Paris of the West. But Kaskaskia long ago met the fate which has overtaken its rival, Shawneetown. It was destroyed by a flood in the spring of 1844.

What gave Shawneetown its importance was that for years it was the gateway to southern Illinois. It was through Shawneetown that all the commerce of the Ohio river entered and left the State, and in the days before the decline of the river traffic that meant a great deal.

The town is situated on a plain. About a mile back from it are the foothills. Ten miles above the Wabash pours its waters into the Ohio and adds them to the great tide that sweeps every spring down the Ohio Valley. The town is about twelve miles distant from the famous salt wells of Saline Creek, where, in early days, the Indians made salt. It was the presence of these salt wells that induced the Government to lay out Shawneetown in 1814. It had long been predicted that floods would eventually destroy the town, and in 1871, after it had been flooded for five or six successive springs, the citizens built a levee around three sides of the little town. In 1875 the levee was swept away, and again in 1883. Several people were drowned in each instance.

Shawneetown reached the highest point of its prosperity about 1882, when its population was 2,500. It had six churches, two public schools, three hotels, two banks and two weekly newspapers. Four years later the number of inhabitants had decreased to 2,000. The latest report before the disaster gave its population as 1,800.

To Get More Revenue.

The Ways and Means Committee is reported to be considering a "horizontal" increase in the tariff duties as means of providing for the deficit and for war expenditures. But the tariff as it stands is obviously too high to yield even current revenues, and to raise it can only be still further to reduce the Government's income.

The receipts for March under the Dingley tariff were only \$15,450,431. The average receipts for March for four years under the McKinley law were \$15,813,056, while under the lower Wilson tariff the average for the period was \$17,935,953. Two facts appear:

1. All three of these tariff laws have been so far prohibitive as to cut off revenues.

2. If we want revenue from customs we must encourage imports by cutting down the schedules considerably below those of any one of them. To advance the schedules will merely be still further to reduce revenue.

The best, the simplest and the least disturbing way to get more money is, however, to let beer alone, and to levy a tax on incomes.

Valuable Hints to Manufacturers and Exporters.

Commercial missions, says the London *Consular Journal*, must bring large results to nations who take intelligent methods to ascertain the needs of the world's markets and adjust their manufactures to the demands of distant peoples. Our Chambers of Commerce might have been much more active in this respect, and it is unfortunate for British trade that their inaction has not been shared by Chambers in other countries. In order that we may enlarge our foreign trade, it is of the first importance that our manufacturers should know not only what suits British tastes and prejudices, but what our customers like and will have. Closely allied to the previous grounds of the success of foreign producers is the question of packing, as to which there is a general consensus of opinion that our foreign competitors, and in particular perhaps the United States, take much more trouble than we do. The following instance we recently cited: Hong Kong—Candles. British makers absolutely decline to alter their system of packing to that adopted by continental markets; consequently they have lost the whole trade. The personal factors which enter into successful competition must not be ignored. It is important that our manufacturers of textile fabrics should know what are the desires or prejudices of purchasers in the different markets of the world, as regards quality, weight, sizing, dressing, and the finish which often sell low priced goods; preferred lengths and widths; and the manner of putting up and packing, freight charges, &c. An unfortunate trademark will often doom an otherwise desirable product to failure. This is particularly true in China.

Mr. Gardner, the British Consul at Amoy, reporting on this subject last autumn, said:—"It has not unfrequently occurred that the sale of foreign goods has been greatly crippled by having some label placed upon it that was offensive to Chinese superstition or tastes. Many colors have peculiar recognition by the people: some offend their tastes and others their superstitions. Some are all right on some kinds of goods and all wrong on others. The Chinese will often buy biscuits, needles, thread, matches, soap, medicine, scent, sweets, &c., for the sake of getting a lucky label. Some colors and combinations of colors are to the Chinese unlucky." Mr. Gardner at the same time furnished us with some four hundred designs for trade marks and labels which, in his judgment, would be popular with the Chinese people. Many of these designs we have already discussed, and we are now in receipt of further important particulars from a Consul in China.

It must be remembered that Chinese art is very peculiar, and a tiger as ordinarily represented by foreign artists would not meet with favor with these people. It must be a tiger according to Chinese imagination and art, of unreasonable length of body or bigness of head or curve of tail, and impossible attitudes. On a popular Japanese match box is displayed a monkey standing on its front feet, head nearly touching the ground, with hind feet up in the air, and tail whipping the skies. The grotesque, and even hideous to the British mind, tickles the fancy of the dwellers in Far Cathay. No description can supply adequate information to an engraver or colorer by which he could produce the real thing, and any departure from the Chinese fancy in such things would brand the goods at once as the product of a "foreign devil," and doom it to defeat. A Chinese dragon differs from a Japanese dragon in its contortions. A royal dragon must have five claws, while the plebeian beast has only four. A stork must always stand on one leg, or, flying, must present an enormous spread of wings and trailing long legs. All Japanese birds, when flying, must have a tendency downward, never up or on a straight course. To a Japanese nothing is preferable to the representation of snow capped, sacred Fusiya, as seen on nearly all Japanese fans, screens, &c.

THE PERILS OF PEARL DIVING.—Notwithstanding the glamor of romance which surrounds it, the life of an ordinary diver is hard and unenviable. It is one of trying exposure and danger, not only from the natural causes of exhaustion and disease, but from the constant menace of sharks and other sea monsters. Sometimes cholera breaks out among the divers, and

then an entire fishery is abandoned by the panic stricken crews, the boats flying in every direction; sometimes a man eating shark finds his way into the fleet and remains there, defying pursuit or capture, and there is a general suspension of business until he is destroyed; and sometimes the grounds "give out" temporarily, for some unknown reason, and the fleet is obliged to move on in search of new banks or fields.

Bavaria's Mad King Dying

The condition of the insane King Otto of Bavaria has suddenly become worse, and it is believed that he is dying. King Otto was born April 27, 1848, and succeeded to the throne June 13, 1866. Early in his reign he began to display extraordinary eccentricities, which in time developed into hallucinations, and finally into violent madness. On June 10, 1886, the government passed into the hands of the present regent, Prince Luitpold.

The condition of the unfortunate monarch has been kept as close as possible, and of late it had been thought that he would become quiet and tractable and in his surroundings. His physicians had even expected that, unless a blood vessel on the brain should burst, he might reach an advanced age. This improvement on his mental condition was so marked a year ago that a proposal to declare his reign closed and to crown Prince Luitpold, the regent, as King of Bavaria, was definitely abandoned on the advice of Emperor William and the Kings of Saxony and Wurttemberg.

Within the last three months he has relapsed into his old violent state; his lucid intervals have become less frequent, and his most dangerous delusion, that of being a stork and able to fly, has again possessed him. He smokes cigarettes immoderately, and displays an inordinate appetite for candies. It requires the constant attention of his attendants to prevent him from going naked. He jumps about like an animal on all fours, and insists on taking his food off the floor. The windows of the place where he is confined are built up to prevent the gleam of light, which the mad king hates.

The Two Navies.

New York World.

Spain's navy is numerically stronger than ours. But discarding all warships projected and building, all antiquated and practically useless wooden and iron vessels, the two navies compare in respect of large warships as follows:

Battleships—Spain, 1; United States, 7. Seagoing coast defense ships—Spain, none; United States, 6. Non-seagoing coast defenders—Spain, 2; United States, 12. Armored cruisers, Spain, 7, all of old types and far less formidable than their technical names indicate; United States, 2, and those the new and most formidable New York and Brooklyn. Protected and partially protected cruisers—Spain, 5 of steel and 10 of iron; United States, 10, all steel.

Spain makes a far better showing in the smaller craft, torpedo boats and torpedo destroyers. But her boats of this type are far from our shores. They are divided into two flotillas, one at Cadix, the other in a crippled condition at the Cape Verde Islands.

Indeed, Spain has very little rear or coast vessels. The Queen Maria and the Viscaya, and many of her best ships are in dry dock or on their way there. We, on the other hand, have at Key West alone a powerful fleet of fifteen war vessels—two battleships, an armored cruiser, a monitor, three protected cruisers, two gunboats and six torpedo boats. And they, like all our fleet, like our superb flying squadron at Hampton Roads, are ready to enter action the instant the word is given.

Awake, Columbia!

A Martial Hymn.

(Copyrighted.)

Awake, Columbia! bid the valor
Of thine immortal heroes rise!
Awake thy sons to war's loud din,
And let their daring lead the fight!
Thy matchless heroes—once thy towers,
Gaze down on thee from the clouds above!
Thy bid thee now thy valor prove!
And show again Columbia's power!

To arms! To arms!
Columbia's sons, so brave!
To arms! To arms!
Let freedom's banners wave!
In Liberty's defense united,
Our life we pledge with heart and hand!
Where freedom's holy truth is plighted,
There ever shall the victor stand!

Through millions flashes martial fire,
They haste, their treasures to defend;
Where once heroic fought the strife,
The sons in valor now contend!

Old glory leads—she forms the banner
Of the victor's power!
To arms! To arms!
Columbia's sons, so brave!
To arms! To arms!
Let freedom's banners wave!
In Liberty's defense united,
Our life we pledge with heart and hand!
Where freedom's holy truth is plighted,
There ever shall the victor stand!

ALBERT D. McLELLAN,
121 Plymouth Place,
Chicago.

A Lesson in Political Life.

The application for a disability pension by John A. Bingham, of Ohio, furnishes a sad but instructive object lesson on the practical results of political life in this country.

Mr. Bingham's public record in brief is that he served sixteen years in Congress, and was appointed judge advocate with the rank of major by President Lincoln, who also appointed him United States Solicitor for the Court of Claims. He likewise served twelve years as Minister to Japan.

This is an unusually successful political career, and yet now Mr. Bingham, at the age of eighty-three, nearly helpless mentally and physically, is in such straitened circumstances that he is glad to accept the relief of a private pension bill granting him \$25 a month. It is noted that it is hard to induce the best class of citizens to enter political life.

OUR FOREIGN NEWS.

Translated and Selected from leading European papers for the SENTINEL.

ENGLAND.

JAMAICA AND THE SUGAR QUESTION.
Major de la Poer Bearseford, in the "British Realm."

The so-called apathy of the white Creole population has perhaps more existence in fact than the other imaginary evil, yet this is a question which involves many others, and cannot be lightly stated to exist. It must be remembered, in the first place, that for two and a half centuries, since Penn and Venables won for us one of the brightest gems of the Antilles, the Creole whites have borne the burden, and literally the heat of the day. Perhaps too careless and thoughtless in the days of their prosperity, it ill becomes those whose fathers enjoyed their boundless hospitality to abuse them. In many estates in Jamaica things are looking up, and sugar is not the only commodity besides spices, exported from the islands. For example, in 1894, the export of coffee from Jamaica was about \$360,000, and fruit \$430,000; as against an export value of \$240,000 of raw sugar, and \$148,000 of rum. The cocoa export of Trinidad, \$587,000, very nearly equalled that of sugar, \$598,000; whilst twice as much land was under cocoa and coffee as under cane, and 100,000 tons of asphalt were exported. Barbados, it is true, is nearly all given over to cane cultivation, but in this island there is no difficulty as to labor, the population being so dense. In all the other islands, speaking generally, the culture of sugar cane is decreasing, and that of cocoa, coffee and cotton increasing. So that it must be allowed that something is being done to rise from the abyss into which bounty free European sugar has driven the much superior West India article.

It is not quite realized how difficult it is in Jamaica at all events, to procure labor. A population of 653,000 souls only exists in an island of 3,600 square miles, whilst the county of Durham, at home, with an area of 999 square miles, has a population of 747,000! It is this dearth of working material, and the great disinclination of the enfranchised negro to work, that constitutes the chief difficulty for the proprietors in the West Indies. I myself could show the spot where a coffee plantation owner and his wife and daughters have stood at the doors and gone into the highways and byways in order to entreat workmen to pick the berry before it fell useless on the ground. Even then it was almost an impossibility, by offer of no matter what wage in reason, to compel them to come in. I have known a promising flower industry where the petals of Stephanotis, gardenias, tuberoses, &c., were exported to Grasse, come to grief from an unexpected cause. The subtle *bouquet d'Afrique*, which exudes from all the sons of Ham, and daughters also, had passed from the fingers of the workers into the petals of the flowers, or the matter in which they were steeped, and had rendered the stuff unfit for working into perfume. Under the old conditions of slavery, happily abolished, the work was forthcoming in any amount at a cost which was infinitesimal; but when the negro was freed it was a very different matter, for nature is so beneficent, that if he but tills the ground for six weeks in the year, it will produce more than he needs for subsistence. In a less grateful clime he would have to work for his living, but here he can exist very well without work; a condition of affairs which he infinitely prefers, and which he sees no reason to find fault with. Indeed, if it were not for the love of fine clothes, which obtains in all colored races, and their desire to shine at least once a week in gaudy coverings and impossible hats and feathers, it is very doubtful if the negro, either male or female, would work at all, and they would probably relapse in the colonies to a state of barbarism to which in Haiti indeed they are even now fast approaching.

In one's rides in and about Jamaica, it is one of the most melancholy things possible to come across a deserted sugar estate. In the middle of the "bush" the luxuriant vegetation of the island is always termed, whether it be an almost virgin forest, or simply a growth supervening where man's work had once made a *clearing*, among the waving banana leaves and dwarf acacia mimosa, a few old brick walls rear their grim elevation. If one penetrates inside, one may discover valuable machinery, red and rusty, which the squatters have found too difficult to remove or unsuited to their wants. Some bird dropped seed has sprung into a great tree, thrusting its roots downward and cracking the masonry in every direction. Round this tree again, as it shoots up high into the air, a member of the fig tribe has wound its parasitic tendrils, enveloping and sucking out the sap of the other plant, which struggles upwards and upwards for life, only to die in the endeavor, and fall by degrees into the rubbish below. Close again, is the old "trash" house, where the fibrous part of the plant was stowed. Here, in old times, hundreds of busy workmen tilled the juicy cane, cutting and carrying it in due season. Here stood the house of the rich proprietor, with its white walls covered with creepers; its jealousies for keeping out the sun are even now to be distinguished rotting among the other remains; above which still stand upright the door jambs where the passing traveler never failed to enter. * * *

If the British market could once more be opened to the West Indies, there can be no doubt that the trade would revive as by magic, and the idle vacuum pan and saccharometer would suddenly again come into use. A loyal and contented population would take the place of an apathetic and discontented race, which seems at present in many instances not disinclined to fall into the

lap of Columbia. And it must be remembered that if the West Indian Islands pass from our possession, not only are the sentimental ties of nearly three centuries rudely snapped asunder, but the possession of two of the best harbors in those latitudes, with their coal stations, passes away also. If, in a future time, a canal is cut through the neighboring isthmus, the value of these ports and coaling stations will be increased tenfold. Though these islands are not to be recommended as the home of the white man, nor can he very well exist in them except where, as in Jamaica, he can live at an altitude where fresher breezes blow than in the sultry plains, yet there are in many ways valuable possessions, and it would be a thousand pities if they were allowed to slip from our grasp. A cup of tea lost as the United States; it seems scarcely worth while to part with the West Indies for a lump of sugar.

ENGLAND, RUSSIA AND FRENCH DEMANDS.

Times—London, March 19.

It must be admitted that there is a certain smartness about the French demands upon China in the name of political compensation. The first is that China shall not alienate to another power any territory south of the Yangtze Valley—this being desired to check the proposed British extension on the mainland opposite Hong Kong and the Burmese extension in Yunnan. Secondly, the cession is asked to France, on the same terms as in the case of Kiao Chau, were granted to Germany, a port at Kwang Chau, in the Lai Chau peninsula near Hainan, as a coaling station. Thirdly, the concession is required of the right to construct a railway from Laokai to Yunnan, with accompanying exclusive mining privileges; and, fourthly, it is demanded that the director of the Imperial Postal Department shall be a Frenchman.

The French are better covered by precedent when they demand a port at Kwang Chau on the same terms as those granted to Germany in the case of Kiao Chau. But on this there are two objections to be made. One is that, in securing Kiao Chau, Germany did not place herself directly upon a great British trade route like that from Singapore to Shanghai; and the other is that the multiplication of such ports seriously threatens the policy to which her Majesty's Government have, with the approval of the country, repeatedly and solemnly pledged themselves. China, one and indivisible, equally open in all its parts to all the world, is in a fair way for becoming a diplomatic fiction peculiar to the British Foreign Office.

Daily Telegraph—London, March 21.

Great Britain has set an admirable example in declaring openly that her interests in the Far East are commercial, and not territorial. In the maintenance of the attitude so defined she has the sympathy of the United States of America as well as of Japan. No other power is injured thereby, and in this fact chiefly we see the strongest hope of a peaceful solution of the problem. Should the result of the pressure now being applied to China from without result in her voluntarily throwing open her markets to the commerce of the world, she would not only lay the spectre of dismemberment and disintegration which now haunts Peking, but by attracting European capital to develop her resources and European genius to reorganize her obsolete system of administration she would secure the only independence which is really stable—that which is based upon complete confidence to resist attack either from within or from without.

La Liberté.

We are at last getting tired and provoked by the systematically aggressive attitude of the English papers whenever it becomes necessary for our country to defend or extend its interests in any part of the globe. Their jealous hostility never misses an opportunity of making itself unpleasant, or of trying to excite our national susceptibilities, and of endeavoring to misrepresent by false news, and embitter by untimely appreciation, the simplest questions at issue between the two Governments. Only quite lately, in the Niger business, which the English and French delegates are doing their best to settle in a spirit of fair dealing and conciliation, the London press, inspired by the Royal Niger Company, did its utmost to set the two countries by their ears, and prevent an amicable adjustment. Now, with respect to our efforts to safeguard our interests in China, the English papers are again indulging in angry clamor against our legitimate claims. But we shall not allow ourselves to be disturbed by their rhodomontade, as we know from a certain source that they do not in the slightest degree represent the views of their own government, which is fully aware that our action does not interfere with its negotiations with China, and that on the other hand we permit no one to interfere between China and ourselves.

Le Journal des Debats.

Russia and Germany, who have acted in accord with France for the past three years, and whose interests are in harmony, having taken up positions in China, and Great Britain having made ample provision for herself in the past, it is natural that France should herself seek "guarantees" in that part of China where she is called upon to display her activity, an activity which, in reality, does not encroach upon the terrain of any other Western nation.

Novoe Vremya—St. Petersburg.

Korea is too near to our vast Asiatic colony for us to regard with equanimity the arrival of unbidden guests in that country, which has obtained its independence through the intervention and intervention of Russia. The appearance of armed forces belonging to a foreign power in Korea would be equivalent, to use an example, to the erection of a fortress in Finland by our rivals. This we could not allow.